

Title:	A systematic review of rotator cuff tears in patients insured by workers' compensation: Prevalence of Injury, Characteristics of rotator cuff injuries, and Outcomes following Operative and Non-Operative Interventions.
Issue/Rationale:	<p>RC tears are the most common source of shoulder pain, disability and discomfort. RC pathology ranks second only to back and neck pain in frequency of occurrence in the workplace. It significantly limits work productivity as indicated by high claims rates and costs attributed to workplace RC injuries. In fact, RC injuries are the second most common reason for lost time from work in manual workers.</p> <p>Many studies have reported that workers' compensation recipients with RC tears experience lower recovery and patient satisfaction, as well as longer time periods to return to employment or full activities compared to non-workers' compensation patients. However, very few studies have performed a risk-adjusted analyses that might inform us as to why workers' compensation board (WCB) patients report different outcomes than non-WCB recipients. Thus, comprehensive data are lacking on whether differential recovery following RC injury in WCB patients can be explained by patient, shoulder, injury or occupational characteristics.</p>
Objectives:	To evaluate the current information and compare WCB and non-WCB RC patient in terms of patient characteristics, injury characteristics, and patient management following RC injury. Our secondary objective is to determine effective treatments currently reported for management of RC injuries both operatively and non-operatively.
Anticipated Results/Impact:	<p>This systematic review will allow us to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) examine if and why WCB RC patients are different from non-WCB RC patients b) examine current interventional programs for treatment of RC injuries <p>This review of the existing literature may give us a "gold standard" for determining expected outcomes and then work towards prevention of such injuries in the workers' compensation population in Alberta.</p>
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